

REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1, 4, and 15 are amended. Claims 1-15 are pending in the application.

Applicants acknowledge the indication that claims 3-5 define patentable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims, and for claims 4-5, to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the following Remarks.

35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office Action rejects claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

By this Amendment, Applicants correct a typographical error in claim 4.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

The Office Action rejects: claims 1, 8-10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over Taniguchi et al. U.S. Patent 6,568,083 ("Taniguchi"); and claims 2, 6, 7, 11 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Taniguchi in view of Muraguchi et al. U.S. Patent 6,430,813 ("Muraguchi").

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are patentable over the cited art for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1

Among other things, the shaving apparatus of claim 1 includes: (1) a housing containing a motor and at least part of an electric power supply means, and carrying a drive structure; and (2) a shell structure enveloping at least a circumference of the housing behind the at least one shaving head when mounted to the housing.

Applicants respectfully submit that Taniguchi does not disclose this combination of features. In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that Taniguchi does not disclose a shell structure enveloping at least a circumference of the housing

behind the at least one shaving head.

The Office Action cites element 12 of Taniguchi as supposedly corresponding to the recited housing, and cites element 20 of Taniguchi as supposedly corresponding to the recited shell structure.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that element 20 of Taniguchi (described by Taniguchi as "front cover 20") does not envelop a circumference of element 12 of Taniguchi (described by Taniguchi as "tube 12"). This plainly evident from inspection of FIGs. 3 and 4B of Taniguchi.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over Taniguchi.

Claims 8-10 and 12

Claims 8-10 and 12 depend from claim 1 and are deemed patentable over claim 1 for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, and for the following additional reasons.

Claim 10

Among other things, in the shaving apparatus of claim 10, the second operating member is electrically connected with the first operating member.

The Office Action cites col. 8, lines 59-64 of Taniguchi as supposedly disclosing these features.

Applicants respectfully disagree. The cited text makes no mention of any electrical connection. The text merely mentions an arrangement where an actuator of a switch button 25 has a mechanical "interconnection" with a power switch 26, and the switch 26 energizes the motor 40.

Accordingly, for at least this additional reason, claim 10 is deemed patentable over Taniguchi.

Claims 2, 6, 7, 11 and 13-14

Claims 2, 6, 7, 11 and 13-14 depend from claim 1. Muraguchi does not remedy the shortcomings of Taniguchi as set forth above with respect to claim 1. Therefore, claims 3, 6, 7 and 11 are deemed patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Applicants also traverse the statements of "design choice" regarding claims 6 and 7.

Claim 15

Among other things, the method of claim 15 includes manufacturing, for each of said shaving apparatuses, a shell structure enveloping at least a circumference of the housing behind the at least one shaving head when mounted to the housing said shell structures having shapes different from each other.

As explained above with respect to claim 1, Taniguchi does not disclose a shell structure enveloping at least a circumference of a housing. Muraguchi does not remedy this shortcoming.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 15 is patentable over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing explanations, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and reexamine the present application, allow claims 1-15 and pass the application to issue. In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Kenneth D. Springer (Reg. No. 39,843) at (571) 283.0720 to discuss these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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